WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Mismanagement in BARC

1960. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "BARC's secrecy veil breeding mismanagement" published in "The Hindustan Times" Delhi dated the 21st April, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the state of affairs, mal-functioning and mismanagement as alleged in the news item, which is a serious matter, have been got investigated at appropriate level;

(c) if so, the factual details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to streamline the functioning of BARC and to bring about reasonable transparency in the country's top atomic organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The allegations made in the report are totally baseless and without any substance.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

NPP project

1961. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Nuclear Power Profile (NPP) project envisaged in 1984, at a cost of Rs. 16,661.5 crore;

(b) what amount has been spent so far and what has been achieved out of it;

(c) what is Government's stand regarding advance purchase in material and equipment of Rs.1328 crore in 1988, now left with scrap value only, as indicated by CAG also; and

(d) the details of the evaluation of the project since its, inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A nuclear power profile envisaging setting up of power at a total installed capacity of 10,000 MWe by 2000 was drawn up in 1984. However, the programme had to be scaled down subsequently keeping in view the resource constraints in financing the programme.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on completed projects in IX plan i.e. Kaiga-1&2 (2×220 MWe) and RAPP-3&4 (2×220 MWe) is Rs. 2752 crore and Rs. 2329 crore respectively. The expenditure on ongoing project, TAPP-3&4 (2×500 MWe) and Kaiga-3&4 (2×220 MWe), as on 30.6.2001, is Rs. 1782 crore and Rs. 337 crore respectively. The actual capacity addition, during the IX Plan, has been 880 MWe comprising of Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-1&2 (2×220 MWe) and Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Unit-3&4 (2×220 MWe) with this, the present total nuclear power capacity in the country is 2720 MWe.

(c) and (d) Advance procurement actions were initiated for long delivery equipments required for 6×500 MWe and 4×220 MWe units based on the 1984 Profile. Advance procurement would not result into financial loss since the equipments procured would cost more now considering the escalation, foreign exchange variation, Rupee devaluation etc., even after taking into account the interest and preservation charges. As the equipments are preserved with full care, there would be no loss on account of degradation/deterioration. Moreover, the equipments do not have shelf life restrictions.

The 1984 Profile was updated in 1989 to increase the number of 500 MWe units from 10 to 12 numbers and decrease the number of 235 MWe units from 12 to 8 numbers, keeping the overall targets of 10,000 MWe by 2000 AD. In the year 1990, the programme was scaled down to a capacity of 6050 MWe. The scaling down was considered necessary due to resource constraints to finance the overall programme.